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Department of Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20240

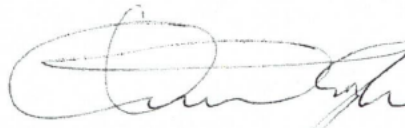
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April 3, 2017
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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RE: Bears Ears Monument

Attn: Secretary Ryan Zinke

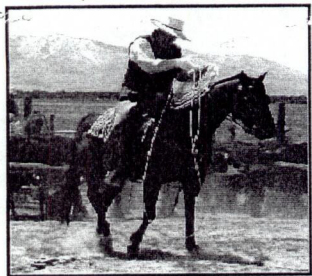
We wish to add our voices to the many who object to what President Obama did to us in south east Utah in creating this monument. Attached is an article by Jim Keyes that was in the recent "The Utah Cattleman" April 2017 issue. It so better puts forth our concerns and sentiments than we could express here. Mary's family were some of the very early settlers of this land. First living in Bluff, Utah before moving up to Moab. We feel the pain of the local old time residents. Please do something about this monument to either reduce it significantly in size or better yet, eliminate it all together.

Thank you.



David and Mary Engleman

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Moab, Utah 84532



Roundup Remarks

Jim Keyes - Associate Professor
Extension Area Beef Specialist
Agricultural Sciences

Utah State University Eastern - Blanding
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We have a new national monument in southeastern Utah. It was a gift from Barack Obama in the closing days of his administration. I guess he didn't want the rural people in this area to forget him. Yeah, like that was going to happen.

The new land grab is over one and a third million acres in size. That's bigger than the entire state of Delaware. Somehow I don't think the Antiquities Act of 1906 was created so that a president could tie up a piece of property this size. I think even Teddy Roosevelt, who signed the act into law, would find this action absurd.

There is very little question about how this whole thing happened. A small collection of special interest groups, who have been seeking a way for years to tie up all this land, piggybacked themselves onto a small group of Native Americans from several tribes, many of which had never seen or heard of this area before. I think they were looking for some cause that would put them on the national radar. The pipeline in the Dakotas was getting all the attention.

Are We Really Hungry?

In reality, there are literally hundreds of Navajo families who use this area for gathering firewood and native medicinal plants. These people have no electricity, gas, or running water. Firewood is a necessity, not just something for the family room fireplace. If this area is managed much the same as previous monuments, the days of firewood collection may be waning.

For this reason, and many others, the vast majority of Navajo People opposed this designation. They have to think about real life, and could care less about getting on the evening news.

What about the local cattle producers? Inside the borders of this new monument are ranches, homes, private lands, and vast acres of SITLA properties. The idea now is to trade the SITLA parcels out for BLM lands elsewhere. This doesn't do a whole lot for the ranchers who lease those parcels, many of which have water, corrals, cabins, and other infrastructure.

This whole situation is an example of our society's detachment from the land. We are now several generations removed from the time when everyone had grandparents, uncles, or at least knew somebody who had a farm or ranch. Most of the new "Z" Generation has no idea where their food comes from nor do they care as long as the grocery store is open.

It's like the argument over the use of organic or non-gmo crops. If our public was really hungry, not just ready for dinner kind of hungry, but actually starving; do you think they would care about those issues? Do you think people would spend time and money trying to tie up lands for "protection", and recreational purposes only?

The bottom line is we have had it too good. This scares me because if you look at history, every time a society had too much time and disposable income on their hands the walls came tumbling down.

I wish I had an answer for all this. Those of us still under Obama's thumb hope that something will happen to at least lessen the burden. The monument may not disappear, but it could be reduced in size.

I do want to report that the fight is not given up. People of San Juan County are still out there doing whatever possible to bring the realities of this monument designation to the forefront. Everywhere you look there are ranch pickups, minivans, SUVs and any vehicle you can imagine with window decals that show a bear and say, "No Monument."

A good source of information on what is happening is Janet Wilcox 42janetkw@gmail.com. She keeps us all posted and up-to-date.

Mark your calendar for the 39th Annual

UT/AZ RANGE LIVESTOCK WORKSHOP AND TOUR

EXTENSION

Utah State University

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
Cooperative Extension

April 4 - Washington
County Regional Park,
5500 W. 500 So.

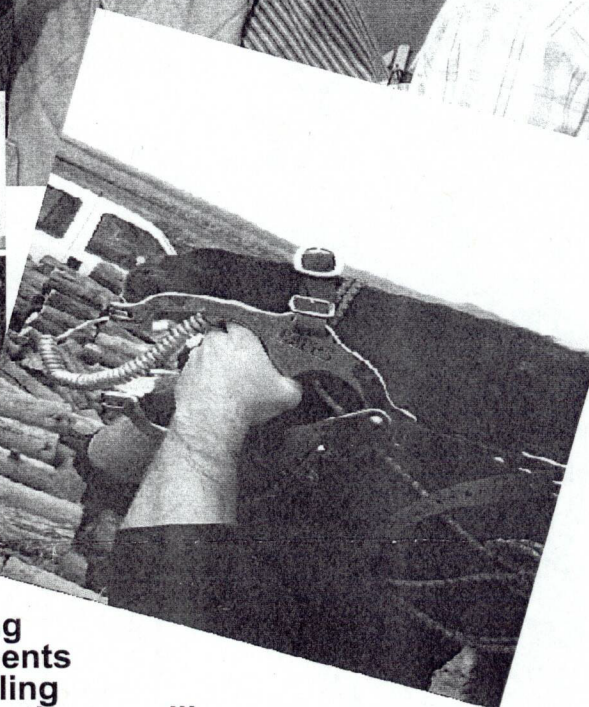
Hurricane, UT

April 5 - Kane County
No. Events Center 475

No. Highway 89

Orderville, UT

April 6 - Tour: Cane
Beds, AZ



**Free
Workshop
Prizes
Lunch
provided by
generous
sponsors**

Topics:

- Targeted grazing
- WRI Veg treatments
- Livestock handling
- Arid land restoration-seedling
- Cheat grass management
- History of public land law & policy

• And more.....

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Organized by: Utah State University Extension, University of Arizona Extension, BLM, Natural Resources Conservation, USDA Forest Service, Kane County, Fredonia AZ &

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